

File No. 666

(Reprint of File No. 268)

Senate Bill No. 596
As Amended by Senate
Amendment Schedule "A"
and House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 2, 1998

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUPPLYING OF ELECTRICITY TO
CERTAIN CAMP SITES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FEES
FOR CERTAIN STATE PARKS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of
Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 16-19ff
2 of the general statutes is repealed and the
3 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

4 (a) Notwithstanding any provisions of the
5 general statutes to the contrary, each electric
6 company OR ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION COMPANY, as
7 defined by section 16-1, shall allow the
8 installation of submeters at a recreational
9 campground or in any other location as approved by
10 the department AND SHALL PROVIDE ELECTRICITY TO
11 SUCH CAMPGROUND AT A RATE NO GREATER THAN THE
12 RESIDENTIAL RATE FOR THE SERVICE TERRITORY IN
13 WHICH THE CAMPGROUND IS LOCATED.

14 Sec. 2. Section 23-26 of the general statutes,
15 as amended by section 2 of public act 97-229, is
16 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
17 thereof:

18 (a) The commissioner may (1) provide for the
19 collection of fees for parking, admission, boat
20 launching and other uses of state parks, forests,
21 boat launches and other state recreational
22 facilities, (2) establish from time to time the
23 daily and seasonal amount thereof, (3) enter into
24 contractual relations with other persons for the
25 operation of concessions, (4) establish other
26 sources of revenue to be derived from services to
27 the general public using such parks, forests and
28 facilities, (5) employ such assistants as may be
29 necessary for the collection of such revenue. The
30 commissioner shall deposit such revenue derived
31 therefrom with the State Treasurer in the General
32 Fund. On and after July 1, 1992, any increase in
33 any fee or any establishment of a new fee under
34 this section shall be by regulations adopted in
35 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.
36 Notwithstanding the provisions of this section,
37 the commissioner may enter into an agreement with
38 any municipality under which the municipality may
39 retain fees collected by municipal officers at
40 state boat launches when state employees are not
41 on duty.

42 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF
43 SUBSECTION (a) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSIONER
44 MAY ESTABLISH FEES FOR THE PUBLIC USE OF THE
45 MANSION AT HARKNESS MEMORIAL STATE PARK IN
46 WATERFORD, THE ELLIE MITCHELL PAVILION AT ROCKY
47 NECK STATE PARK IN EAST LYME AND GILLETTE CASTLE
48 IN EAST HADDAM PROVIDED NO FEE SHALL BE CHARGED TO
49 ANY GROUP ORGANIZED AS A NONPROFIT CORPORATION
50 UNDER 26 USC 501 (c) (3) FOR PURPOSES OF PROVIDING
51 SUPPORT TO SUCH PARKS OR FACILITIES AND FURTHER
52 PROVIDED THE COMMISSIONER SHALL SPECIFY PROCEDURES
53 AND CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF ANY PRIVATE
54 BUSINESS WHICH IS ENGAGED BY THE STATE TO PROVIDE
55 SERVICES DURING ANY SUCH PUBLIC USE, INCLUDING,
56 BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CATERING SERVICES. SUCH FEES,
57 PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA SHALL BE EFFECTIVE UNTIL
58 JUNE 30, 1999, OR UNTIL REGULATIONS ARE ADOPTED,
59 WHICHEVER IS SOONER. REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING SUCH
60 FEES, PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA SHALL BE ADOPTED IN
61 ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 54 ON OR
62 BEFORE JULY 1, 1999. SUCH FEES SHALL BE COMPARABLE
63 WITH RENTS AND CHARGES OF SIMILAR PROPERTIES BASED
64 ON FAIR MARKET RATES.

65 [(b)] (c) The commissioner shall issue to any
66 resident of the state, upon payment of a fee
67 established by said commissioner, a
68 nontransferable Connecticut private passenger
69 motor vehicle pass which permits free parking
70 throughout the calendar year at any state park,
71 forest, boat launch or other state recreational
72 facility provided the commissioner shall not be
73 required to issue such a pass to any park, forest
74 or facility which is wholly managed by a private
75 concessionaire and may require payment of fees for
76 special events.

77 [(c)] (d) The commissioner shall issue to any
78 resident of the state who is sixty-five years of
79 age or older, without fee, upon application of
80 such resident, a nontransferable lifetime pass
81 which shall permit free parking, admission and
82 boat access parking for use at any state park,
83 forest or state recreational facility, provided
84 the commissioner shall not be required to issue
85 such a pass for use of any park, forest or
86 facility which is wholly managed by a private
87 concessionaire and may require payment of fees for
88 special events.

89 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect from its
90 passage.

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"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SOLELY FOR PURPOSES OF INFORMATION, SUMMARIZATION AND EXPLANATION AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR EITHER HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER SB 596

STATE IMPACT	See Explanation Below
MUNICIPAL IMPACT	None
STATE AGENCY(S)	Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Public Utility Control

EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:

STATE IMPACT: The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has not yet established by regulations the fees to be charged at Harkness or the Pavillion at Rocky Neck or determined fees for public use at Gillette Castle. DEP already has contracts in place and deposits for the use of Harkness for 15 events (\$3,000 each). This bill will enable DEP to charge these fees until the regulations are adopted or June 30, 1999, whichever is sooner. The adoption of the regulations will be handled within the normal activities of the agency. It is unclear what will happen to the reservations, contracts or deposits without this legislation. Fees collected are deposited into the Environmental Conservation Fund.

Exempting certain nonprofits from paying the fees could preclude a minimal revenue gain.

The campsite provisions have no fiscal impact on the DEP or the DPUC.

Senate "A" changes the campsites involved to private campsites instead of state campsites and makes a technical change. The amendment also allows the Commissioner of DEP to establish fees for public use of

certain facilities effective until June 30, 1999, or until regulations are adopted, whichever is sooner. The amendment requires that the regulations be adopted before July 1, 1999. In addition, certain nonprofit corporations are exempt from the fees.

House "A" concerns electrical rates charged at campsites and has no state or municipal impact and makes the effective date upon passage.

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OLR AMENDED BILL ANALYSIS

SB 596 (File 268, as amended by Senate "A" and House "A") *

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUPPLYING OF ELECTRICITY TO CAMP SITES IN STATE PARKS AND FORESTS

SUMMARY: This bill requires electric companies and electric distribution companies to charge private camp sites with submeters the local residential electric rate or less. By law, the owner of the main meter may not charge submeter customers more than he pays.

The bill authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to set fees, before adopting regulations, for the use of

1. the mansion at Harkness Memorial State Park in Waterford,
2. the Ellie Mitchell Pavilion at Rocky Neck State Park in East Lyme, and
3. Gillette Castle in East Haddam

It also allows DEP to establish procedures and criteria for selecting business to provide services such as catering to the sites. The fees must be comparable to the fair market rates for similar properties. The fees, procedures, and criteria are effective until the DEP adopts them as regulations or June 30, 1999 at the latest. The DEP must adopt the regulations by July 1, 1999. Federally recognized nonprofits organized to support the parks or facilities covered are exempt from the fees.

*Senate Amendment "A" makes the electric submetering rate provision apply to private camp sites rather than ones located in state parks and forests and adds reference to electric distribution companies. It authorizes DEP to establish fees, procedures, and criteria for public use of certain state facilities.

*House Amendment "A" eliminates the provision that requires camp sites to charge campers the residential rate for electricity and instead requires the electric suppliers to charge the camp sites the residential rate or less, which, by law, they must pass through to the campers. It makes the effective date upon passage rather than October 1, 1998.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Legislative History

The Senate referred this bill (File 268), to the Energy and Technology Committee on April 8. The committee favorably reported the bill unchanged on April 15.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 12 Nay 11

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 16 Nay 1